

BOA CANINA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Scuta abdominalia.

Scuta subcaudalia. (absque crepitaculo.)

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 373.

Class. Amphibia. Ord. Serpentes.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

BOA viridis, fasciis dorsualibus transversis albis,
scutis 203, scutulis 77.

Seb. Mus. vol. 2. tab. 81, 96.

Quamvis plurimæ sint serpentes quæ spectatores horrore et formidine potius quam voluptate afficiunt, multæ tamen sunt species quæ pulcherrimos colores summanque elegantiam jactare possunt. Qui exemplum desiderat adeat anguem *Scytalen* in hoc opere antea depictum. Alterum est exemplum species de qua jam agitur. Genus ad quod hæc serpens refertur, scutorum continuata serie per totam corporis inferioris longitudinem distinguitur.

Laminæ omnes serpentum in parte inferiore, seu ventre, nomine *Scutorum* a Linnæo distinguuntur, ne cum squamis superioribus confundi possint: sed quoniam scuta quæ sub cauda sunt, ab aliis differunt, utpote breviora seu minus dilatata, fatius puto hæc nomine *Scutulorum* appellare, quo melius a scutis, seu laminis largioribus possint dignosci. Quamvis torvo sit hæc

hæc serpens et maligno vultu, nullo tamen veneno imbutur, et simplici tantum vulnere lædit; utpote telis tubulatis et facculo veneni, quibus noxiæ serpentes armantur, plane carens. Color ejus est subcæruleo-viridis, admodum vividus, per dorsum fasciis transversis albidis variatus: ventrem etiam habet albidum, sed flavo inquinatum. Americæ est incola.

Figura hujus serpentis in Sebæ Thesauro est adeo perfecta, ut potius visum sit eam ipsam imitari quam novam condere. In Linnæi opere, Museum Adolphi Friderici dicto, alia existat figura, sed minus elegans. In Museo Britannico ipse serpens conspicitur.

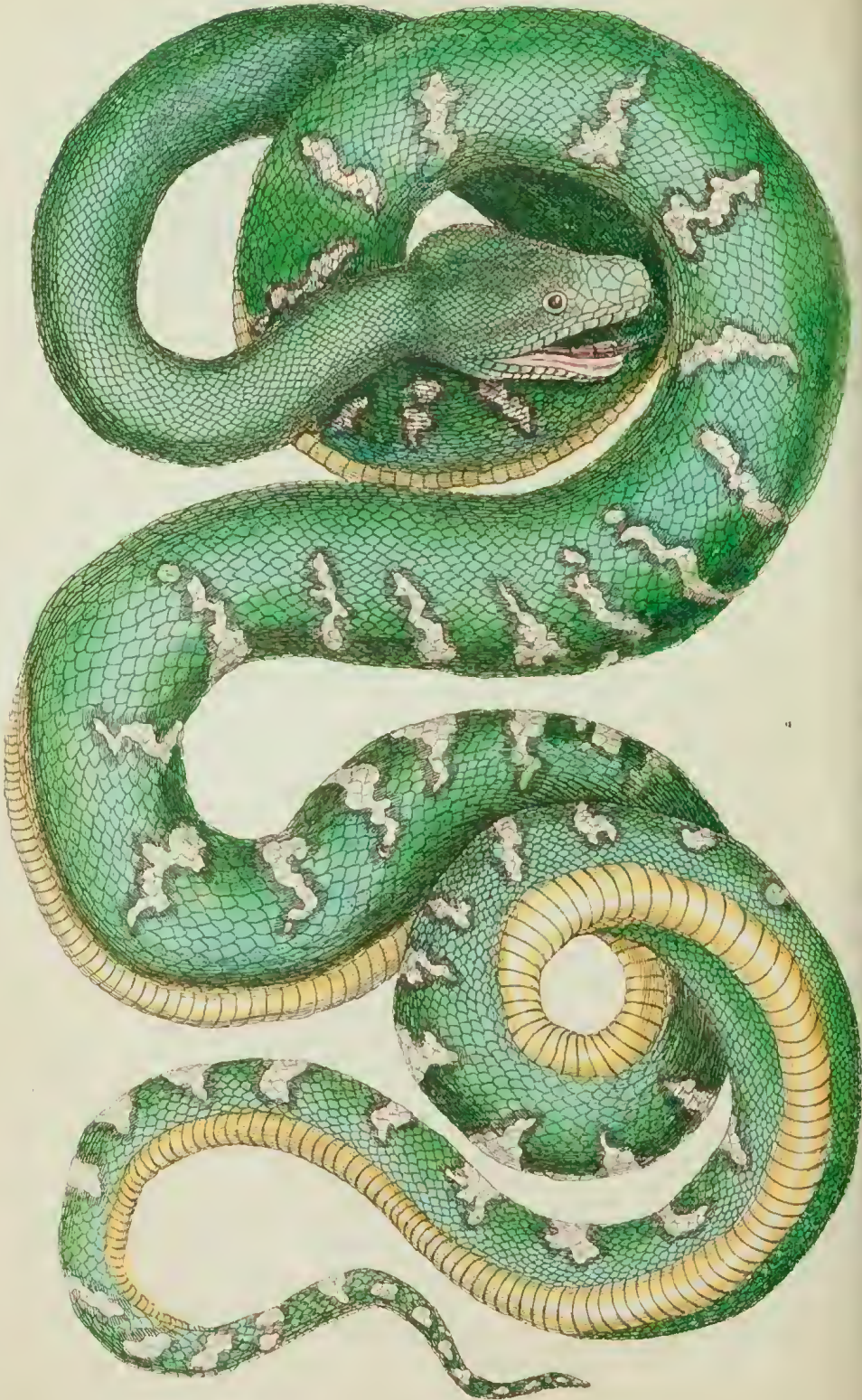
Sed audi Linnæi ipsius descriptionem hujus serpentis ex museo Adolphi Friderici.

“*Caput* cordatum, ante oculos oblongum, depressum, postice gibbum, imbricatum squamis parvis: anticeis, præsertim ad latera, ante oculos, majoribus. “*Labium* superius antice retusum, album, emarginatum, lateribus scrobibus scalaribus profundis excavatum, unde horrida facies. *Dentes* versus anteriora, in utrisque maxillis, tam supra quam infra, 2 vel 3 longi, acuti, fixi, nec retractiles. *Nares* lineares, transversæ. *Oculi* orbiculares.

“*Truncus* compressus, præsertim versus abdomen: squamis lævibus. *Abdomen* albidum: scutellis 203. “*Cauda* $\frac{1}{7}$ totius, subtus scutellis 77, spithamea, attenuata, obtusiuscula.

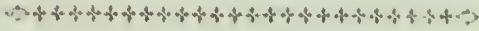
“Color viridis fasciis transversis, albis, angustis, tantum dorsalibus, medio interruptis.

“Longitudo quadripedalis. Crassities fere brachii angustioris.”



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THE
CANINE BOA,
OR
DOG-HEADED SNAKE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Transverse *Lamella*, both on the abdomen, and beneath the tail.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

GREEN BOA, with white transverse dorsal bands; with 203 scuta on the abdomen, and 77 scutula beneath the tail.

Though the serpent tribe undoubtedly abounds with species which may well be considered rather as terrible than pleasing objects, yet there are not wanting numerous examples of the greatest elegance and beauty of colour in this class of beings. Of this the *Anguis Scytale*, or Painted Snake, figured in a former Number of this Work, may be regarded as a striking instance, and the animal here represented may be adduced as another. The genus of Serpents to which this species belongs, is distinguished by having a continued series of plates, or transverse scales, throughout the whole length of its lower surface.

The

The large plates on serpents are called, in the Linnaean language, by the name of Scuta, to distinguish them from the Squamæ, or scales on the other parts of the body : but as those scuta which are situated under the tail, differ from the rest in being smaller or less extended, and form a separate assortment from the abdominal ones, they should always be called by a name which should instantly distinguish them from the Scuta or larger plates. I have therefore called these smaller scuta by the name of Scutula.

Notwithstanding an appearance of malignity in this animal, it is not of a venomous nature ; that is, it is not capable of inflicting any other than a simple wound by its teeth, as it is unprovided with the tubular fangs and reservoir of poison with which the venomous serpents are furnished.

Its colour is a most beautiful vivid Saxon or bluish-green, with several broad transverse bars of white down the back ; the belly is of a white colour, but slightly tinged with yellow. It is an inhabitant of America.

The figure of this Snake in Seba's Museum is so well executed both as to posture and accuracy, that it was thought better to copy it than to attempt a new one.

In the British Museum is a fine specimen of this animal. It is also figured in the Museum Adolphi Frederici of Linnaeus, but the figure in that work is far from having the elegance of Seba's representation.

The description of this serpent by Linnaeus in the Mus. Adolph. Frid. is as follows.

“ *Head* cordated, oblong before the eyes, depressed,
“ gibbous behind, imbricated with small scales ; the
“ anterior

“ anterior ones, especially at the sides before the eyes,
“ larger than the rest. Upper *Lip* retuse before, white,
“ emarginated, the sides excavated with a series of deep
“ scalary furrows, which give the face a formidable ap-
“ pearance. *Teeth* situated towards the anterior part
“ of the mouth, 2 or 3 in each jaw, both above and
“ below, long, sharp, fixed, not retractile. *Nostrils*
“ linear, transverse. *Eyes* orbicular.

“ *Trunk* compressed, especially towards the abdomen:
“ covered with smooth scales. *Abdomen* white; *Scuta*
“ 203. *Tail* 1-7th of the whole, attenuated, somewhat
“ obtuse, covered beneath with 77 *Scutula*.

“ Colour green, with transverse white bands, which
“ are narrow and situated on the back only, and some-
“ what broken or interrupted towards the middle.

“ Length 4 feet. Thickness nearly that of the finall
“ of the arm.”